

I

Skidmore Intercom

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 7 - March 25, 2003

Highlights

[Top Poets to Attend Festival](#)

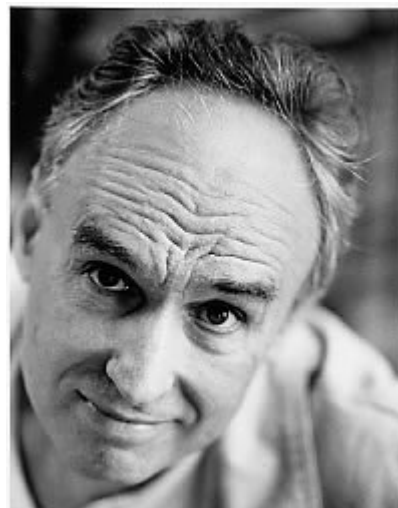
[Board of Trustees Report](#)

[New MALS Director Named](#)

[Middle-East Conflict To Be Perlow Topic](#)

[Cultural Diversity Week Upcoming](#)

[Printable Version](#)



Poets Barry Goldensohn (left) and Frank Bidart will be on hand this weekend for the Skidmore Poetry Festival. [See story.](#) (Bidart photo by Emma Dodge Hanson '93)



OT: our town, an award-winning film by Scott Hamilton Kennedy '87, opens Cultural Diversity Week on campus. [See story.](#)

Welcome -- The Skidmore *Intercom* Faculty-Staff Newsletter is a production of the Office of College Relations. All members of the campus community are invited to submit story ideas or news items, using the contact information provided below. Department chairs and office directors are asked to please print a copy of this document to share with colleagues who do not have regular access to a computer.

We hope you enjoy this electronic newsletter and encourage you to share your impressions via email or telephone.

Skidmore Intercom
 Skidmore College
 815 North Broadway
 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
 518.580.5000
intercom@skidmore.edu



Highlights

[Top Poets to Attend
Festival](#)[Board of Trustees
Report](#)[New MALS Director
Named](#)[Middle-East Conflict
To Be Perlow Topic](#)[Cultural Diversity
Week Upcoming](#)[Printable Version](#)

Skidmore Intercom

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 7 - March 25, 2003**Poets to Gather for Skidmore Festival**

Some of the country's top poets – including a number of writers familiar to Skidmore audiences through their involvement with the New York State Summer Writers Institute – will be on campus in late March for a Poetry Festival. The two-day event will provide a chance to honor longtime Skidmore Professor Barry Goldensohn, who retires this year, and an opportunity to welcome Carolyn Forché, who will begin teaching at Skidmore in the fall.

[Read more about it.](#)

Skidmore Intercom

Skidmore College
815 North Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518.580.5000
intercom@skidmore.edu

I

Highlights

[Top Poets to Attend Festival](#)

[Board of Trustees Report](#)

[New MALS Director Named](#)

[Middle-East Conflict To Be Perlow Topic](#)

[Cultural Diversity Week Upcoming](#)

[Printable Version](#)

Skidmore Intercom

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 7 - March 25, 2003

Report on the Board of Trustees Meeting Winter 2003

Skidmore's Board of Trustees came to campus Feb. 19-21 for the second board meeting of 2002-03. New trustee Dennis Dammerman attended for the first time. In addition to formal committee meetings, the agenda included a reception and rededication of Colton House as the new Alumni Welcome Center, with Trustee Emeritus George Colton and his wife, Ruth, as special guests; and dinner with faculty and students, both on Thursday evening. Friday evening featured the annual Scholarship Dinner at the Canfield Casino, an event that brings together scholarship donors, the students who receive scholarship aid, and faculty members chosen by the students.

The general meeting of the board took place Friday afternoon at the Surrey Williamson Inn. In her introductory remarks, Sue Thomas '62, chair of the board, remarked, "We have had many good discussions on the difficult issues facing us. We have come to a greater understanding and can move forward together." She continued, "Skidmore is in a good position. The College is nationally recognized. Our faculty is excellent and our students are in good shape. Applications and the annual fund are up. We have a strong community and a fantastic campus. I have the feeling that we are all dedicated to the institution and are willing to move it forward."

President Studley, having opened the meeting Thursday with an overview of the College's financial picture, steps under way to identify and implement changes, and a summary of the goals of the board meeting, expressed satisfaction at the candid, constructive discussions, especially those among board and faculty members. She also thanked "all those who make these meetings possible. As we show our appreciation for faculty and more visible members of the staff for their efforts, it's appropriate to thank those who work behind the scenes as well."

Below is additional information and a summary of the resolutions adopted by the board on Feb. 21.

Nominating Committee

The board approved a motion to award the Denis B. Kemball-Cook Award to Charles V. Wait, who stepped down from the board last year after 18 years of service. The Kemball-Cook award, named in honor of a former trustee, recognizes the personal qualities and extraordinary commitment of trustees who have given "sacrificially of wisdom, time, and talent in generous service to Skidmore." It was announced that John Humphrey, PA '06, chief executive officer of Humphrey Enterprises and chair of the board of the Boston Ballet, will join the board in June.

Academic Affairs Committee

Charles Joseph, interim vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty, joined Trustee Dale Owen Coxe '64 in making the committee's report, in which he noted that one full-time faculty position will be eliminated from one department next year and that the Liberal Studies Audit program has been retired. The LS audit program enabled faculty who were considering teaching an LS course the opportunity to obtain a course release to audit the LS course. He added that all new program proposals are on hold while the College works through the current budget situation.

The committee approved resolutions for faculty tenure, promotions, and sabbatical leaves as follows:

Tenure and promotion to associate professor granted to Katherine J. Hauser and Amelia F. Rauser, Art and Art History; Corey R. Freeman-Gallant, Biology; Mary M. Crone, Lubin Family Professor for Women in Science, Chemistry and Physics; Steven T. Frey, Chemistry and Physics; Jennifer A. Delton, History; Christine M. Page, Management and Business; and Denise L. Evert, Psychology.

Untenured leaves were approved as follows:

- Full-year leaves -- Susan Belden, associate professor of management and business, and Ngina S. Chiteji, assistant professor of economics;

- Fall-semester 2003 -- David D. Weis, assistant professor of chemistry, and Deborah R. Hall, assistant professor of art;

- Spring-semester 2004 -- Robert C. Turner, assistant professor of government.

Sabbatical leaves were approved as follows:

- Full-year -- R. Daniel Hurwitz, professor of mathematics; Regina M. Janes, professor of English; Susan Kress, professor of English and Class of 1948 Professor for Excellence in Teaching; Mary C. Lynn, professor of American Studies; Monica Raveret Richter, associate professor of biology; and Deborah Rohr, associate professor of music.

- Fall-semester 2003 leaves were granted to the following professors: Steven A. Hoffmann, government; Roy J. Rotheim, economics; Sheldon Solomon, psychology; and David Domozych, biology.

- Spring-semester 2004 leaves were granted to Gerald M. Erchak, professor of anthropology; Regis C. Brodie, professor of art; Gautam Dasgupta, professor of theater; Mary DiSanto-Rose, associate professor of dance; Patricia Fehling, associate professor of exercise science; Jane S. Graves, associate professor, visual resources/arts librarian; Bernard Possidente, professor of biology; William J. Standish, associate professor of physics; Aldo C. Vacs, Joseph C. Palamountain Professor of Government; and Marc-André Wiesmann, associate professor of French.

For spring and fall 2004, Holley S. Hodgins, associate professor of psychology, pending external funding.

Student Life Committee

The committee's report included an update from Mary Lou Bates, dean of enrollment and student aid, who announced that the Class of 2007 has presented "the largest and strongest applicant pool in our history." Applications for the class exceeded 5,900, a new record. The median SAT of the applicant pool is 1,250, an increase of 10 points. Applications from students of color increased 24 percent (following a seven percent decrease last year) while applications from non-U.S. citizens rose 46 percent. Overall, Early Decision applications were down six percent with about 10 fewer students accepted through Early Decision. The median SAT of those accepted ED was 1,230.

The percentage of applicants seeking financial aid remains at approximately 54 percent.

The goal is to enroll a class of 600 students on campus and another 36 students for the first-semester program in London.

Budget and Finance Committee

The board approved the four major parameters for developing the operating budget for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2003. The final budget, to be approved in May, will be based on an opening enrollment of 2,140 students (with a first-year class projected to total 600 on campus and 36 in London); an increase in the comprehensive fee of 5.95 percent (from \$35,535 to \$37,650); a financial aid budget of \$16,875,000; and a total compensation budget of \$57,182,000. The compensation budget includes funding for two new faculty positions, allocates a small amount for changes in positions, and covers contractual obligations for union members. No allocation was made for a general salary adjustment.

The committee discussed the proposal from the Financial Policy and Planning Committee that a one-time payment of \$700 be provided to employees with annual salaries of \$30,000 or less and encouraged the President and President's staff to seriously consider the proposal in developing the final budget recommendation.

Infrastructure Committee

The board approved recommendations to release funds from the FY 2004 budget in two areas as follows:

- \$1,882,300 in "early start" capital renewal projects to facilitate bidding, scheduling of contractors, and ordering of supplies. These projects include such items as a new roof for Filene and Jonsson Tower and renovation of Penfield Hall.

- \$625,000 early release of capital funds for computer replacement.

Trustee Update

Edgar Wachenheim III recently became a trustee emeritus. A member of the board from 1993 to 2001, he served on the investment committee and was a leader in supporting the Tang Museum. Even in his retirement, he has agreed to remain involved in managing Skidmore's endowment.

Wachenheim's commitment to ensuring and enhancing Skidmore's well-being is both fiduciary and familial: the chair of Greenhaven Associates investment firm, he is the son of Betty Lewis Wachenheim '31 and the father of Lance '85, Kim '88, and Amy '01. In January he was toasted by fellow trustees past and present at a reception in New York City.



The newest member of the board is Dennis Dammerman, who joined last month. A manager at General Electric since graduating from the University of Dubuque in 1967, he brings considerable financial expertise to the board, as he has been GE's chief financial officer and a director of GE Capital Services for nearly 20 years. In 1994 he was elected to the board of directors of GE. In 1998 he was honored with a lifetime achievement award from *CFO* magazine.

Dammerman, who recently retired as vice chair of the board at Fairfield University, will serve on the Skidmore board's financial, investment, and audit committees. He and his wife are active in the community of Saratoga Springs, where they maintain a summer home.

Skidmore Intercom

Skidmore College
815 North Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518.580.5000
intercom@skidmore.edu

Highlights

[Top Poets to Attend Festival](#)[Board of Trustees Report](#)[New MALS Director Named](#)[Middle-East Conflict To Be Perlow Topic](#)[Cultural Diversity Week Upcoming](#)[Printable Version](#)

Skidmore Intercom

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 7 - March 25, 2003**New MALS Director Named**

Dan Coleman has been named the new director of the College's Master's Program in Liberal Studies, replacing David Glaser, who has taken a teaching position in Thailand.

"It is a pleasure to welcome Dan Coleman to Skidmore," said Dean of Special Programs Don McCormack. "His experience, energy, and creativity will be of great value to the MALS program as it marks its 10th anniversary, particularly as Dan considers how best to recruit and serve the needs of students in the years ahead."

Coleman came to Skidmore from Bennington College, where he had worked since 1998 in several capacities, including as director of special projects in the Office of Communications, where his prime responsibility was the admissions process, materials, and marketing strategies; and as co-founder and associate director of the Center for Creative Teaching, where he helped launch an undergraduate and graduate-level teacher education program that was integrated into Bennington's liberal arts curriculum. He also taught both undergraduate and graduate-level courses in education, literature, and philosophy at Bennington.

He earlier gained experience in teaching at several colleges and schools, including Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., Stuyvesant High School in New York City; St. Paul's School in Concord, N.H.; and Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass.

Coleman was drawn to Skidmore by the chance to work with non-traditional adult students. "The kind of students that come to the master's program are people in the middle of their lives -- in the middle of careers, and kids, and all sorts of complex necessities. For these students, there's nothing automatic about going back to school, nothing inevitable, nothing easy. It's a real sacrifice. The difficulty of it makes their education matter in a way that school doesn't always matter. These students aren't just continuing their educations; they're choosing them. They're hungry for what Skidmore has to offer," he explained.

In Coleman's view, the attributes that make MALS students so interesting require creativity in recruiting new students to the program. "Our prospective students don't all come from the same box," he said. "That's wonderful once we've got them here, but it makes getting them here a challenge. Since they aren't all coming to us from the same kind of location or occupation, there's no easy way to target them." As result, his major short-term goal is to help the MALS program improve its marketing image by improving its academic substance, "to live up to its dream of itself." He added, "We need to communicate what's most exciting about this program to people inside the Skidmore community -- faculty, undergraduates, and alumni -- and to people on the outside. We need to find those students who can step up to this kind of educational challenge."

A 1989 graduate of the University of Chicago, where he obtained an A.B. degree in interdisciplinary humanities and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Coleman earned master's and doctoral degrees in English language and literature at Cornell University.

While at Cornell he received fellowships from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and a Sage Graduate Fellowship.

Long influenced by teaching -- both parents and a brother are educators -- Coleman says "I've always loved the thrill of working with students in a way that really turns their heads inside out." However, his own teaching will take a back seat while Coleman turns his attention to administrative duties and the upcoming 10th anniversary of the MALS program. The year ahead will feature a reunion for graduates, faculty, and current students, along with a major revision of the program's web site and publications.

Skidmore Intercom

Skidmore College
815 North Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518.580.5000
intercom@skidmore.edu



Highlights

[Top Poets to Attend Festival](#)

[Board of Trustees Report](#)

[New MALS Director Named](#)

[Middle-East Conflict To Be Perlow Topic](#)

[Cultural Diversity Week Upcoming](#)

[Printable Version](#)

Skidmore Intercom

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 7 - March 25, 2003

Middle East Expert to Focus on Israeli-Palestinian Conflict in Perlow Talk

A foremost expert on the Middle East peace process will give this spring's Jacob Perlow Lecture at Skidmore.

Henry Siegman, senior fellow and director of the U.S./Middle East Project at the Council on Foreign Relations, will discuss "Who Doesn't Want Peace? Road Maps/Road Blocks and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," at 8:15 p.m. Monday, April 7, in Gannett Auditorium of Palamontain Hall. Admission is free and open to the public.

A refugee from Europe early in World War II, Siegman came to this country, where he earned a B.A. degree at the New School for Social Research and later studied to become a rabbi. He was an Army chaplain during the Korean Conflict and received both a bronze star and a purple heart for his service. He has served as the director of the American Association for Middle East Studies and edited its quarterly publication, *Middle East Studies*. He founded the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations, was executive director of the American Jewish Congress for 16 years, and is now at the Council on Foreign Relations, a center for the study and practice of international affairs and U.S. foreign policy.

During the late 1990s he directed the ground-breaking Council Independent Task Force, "Strengthening Palestinian Public Institutions." He is now a key participant in efforts undertaken by the U.S., the U.N., the European Union, and Russia to develop a "road map" for ending the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. He has been a powerful critic of the Sharon government and the settler movement, and an advocate for an end to the Intifadeh. He supports the creation of an independent Palestinian state and its peaceful coexistence with a secure Israel. In a *New York Times* profile published last year, Siegman explained that his life experiences – as a refugee, as a soldier, as a rabbinical student – fueled his passion for justice and made him empathetic toward the Palestinian issue. He said then, "American Jewish organizations confuse support for the state of Israel and its people with an uncritical endorsement of the actions of Israeli governments." He acknowledged that his views have made him a pariah among American Jewish groups.

Siegman is the author of a number of studies and reports for the Council on Foreign Relations, as well as more than 100 articles and essays on the Middle East in a number of mainstream publications in this country and abroad. His publications have earned him the admiration and the ire of readers in the U.S., Europe, and the Middle East.

Skidmore's series of Perlow events is made possible with support from the estate of Jacob Perlow, who emigrated to the U.S. in the 1920s and was committed to furthering Jewish education.

Skidmore Intercom

Skidmore College
815 North Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518.580.5000
intercom@skidmore.edu



Highlights

[Top Poets to Attend
Festival](#)[Board of Trustees
Report](#)[New MALS Director
Named](#)[Middle-East Conflict
To Be Perlow Topic](#)[Cultural Diversity
Week Upcoming](#)[Printable Version](#)

Skidmore Intercom

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 7 - March 25, 2003**Cultural Diversity Week**

Alumnus Scott Hamilton Kennedy '87 will screen his award-winning film *OT: our town* when he returns to campus Saturday, March 29. His is the first of an array of events planned to celebrate Cultural Diversity Week at Skidmore.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Skidmore Intercom

Skidmore College
815 North Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518.580.5000
intercom@skidmore.edu

Highlights

[Top Poets to Attend Festival](#)[Board of Trustees Report](#)[New MALS Director Named](#)[Middle-East Conflict To Be Perlow Topic](#)[Cultural Diversity Week Upcoming](#)[Printable Version](#)

Skidmore Intercom

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 7 - March 25, 2003**Faculty-Staff Activities**

John Anzalone, professor of French, is the pedagogical consultant for the Virtual Campus Project, an information technology initiative that links Bard College and Smolny College of the University of St. Petersburg, Russia. Two courses – one on Russian opera, the other on comparative politics – are being taught simultaneously on each campus this semester. The students and faculty are linked by video-conference tools and the Internet. Funded by the Mellon Foundation, the project will bring two such online courses to both campuses each semester during the three-year duration of the grant.

Peg Boyers, executive editor of *Salmagundi*, participated in a Feb. 9 poetry reading sponsored by the Saratoga Poetry Zone. Boyers and Chase Twichell read their work at the event, which took place at the Saratoga Springs Public Library.

Terry Diggory, Ross Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies and chair, Department of English, delivered a paper titled "The Canvas Invites Writing": Marjorie Welish on Cy Twombly" at a session titled "Toward Abstraction: American Experimental Poets on the Visual Arts" at the American Literature Association Symposium on "Twentieth-Century American Poetry: Developments and Definitions" March 13-15 in Long Beach, Calif.

Roy Ginsberg, professor of government and Glaverbel Professor of European Politics, Universite catholique de Louvain, was a Title VI-A grants reader for the U.S. Department of Education's Office of International Education in February. The grants fund international studies curricula at undergraduate colleges and universities in the U.S. Skidmore received two such grants during the 1990's.

Catherine Golden, professor of English, gave an invited lecture titled "In Search of the Brontes" at the Shenedehowa Library in Clifton Park earlier this year, as part of the library's adult education program.

Deborah Hutton, visiting assistant professor of art history, gave a lecture titled "Interpreting the Veil I the Works of Shahzia Sikander and Shirin Neshat," contemporary Muslim artists, Jan. 30 at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Reinhard Mayer, visiting associate professor of German, gave an invited lecture Jan. 23 to the Columbia University Faculty Seminar titled "On Eighteenth-Century European Culture." Mayer's lecture was titled "Reflections on Goethe's Second Night Song and the Musical Settings of Friedrich Zelter, Franz Schubert, Franz Liszt, and Lionel Nowak." He also organized a chaired a "Professional Focus" session titled "Wirtschaftsdeutsch (Business German) in North America" at the annual meeting of the American Association of Teachers of German and the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Nov. 21-24 in Salt Lake City. In addition he organized a post-conference workshop on Business German with Walther von Reinhardt of the University of Rhode Island and Katharina Barbe of the Thunderbird School of International Business.

Peter MacDonald, publications director, and **Mary Parlman '81**, senior graphic designer, earned an "Accolades" award in communications from District II (Mid-Atlantic) of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. The awards were announced in February at CASE's regional conference in New York City.

They collaborated on a publication titled "Commencement Memories," which was distributed last spring to members of the Class of '02. The publication received an Honorable Mention in the category "Visual Design in Print – Single-Page Publications."

David Porter, president emeritus, presented "The Well-Tempered Clavier" March 16 at the Saratoga County Arts Council. The program was one in the council's "Sundays at 3" series.

Terri Sanacore, Campus Safety, earned New York State certification for mounted police following completion March 7 of a seven-week mounted police training course.

Sheldon Solomon, professor of psychology, recently gave two talks: "Defying Death by Destroying Others: Death Anxiety and the Impulse to Violence," March 22 at Central Michigan University; and "Destroying the World to Save It: Death-Denying Apocalyptic Violence in the Wake of 9/11," March 8 at the University of Washington.

John J. Thomas, professor emeritus of geology, participated in a workshop called "Design Principles for Creating Effective Web-Based Learning Resources in Geosciences," Feb. 9-11 at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Sponsored by the National Association of Geoscience Teachers and the Science Education Resource Center at Carleton College, the program featured 30 of the leading geoscientists working in web-based education to discuss issues related to the new technology. While there Thomas outlined a design for a modular web page for a mineral identification laboratory.

Publications

John Anzalone, professor of French, is the author of an article on Jean Renoir published in *Peripheries*, a volume of selected papers from the 19th Colloquium of the Society for Nineteenth-Century French Studies, edited by Tim Raser and published by Delaware University Press.

Beau Breslin, assistant professor of government, has had his book titled *The Communitarian Constitution* accepted for publication by Johns Hopkins University Press. In addition Breslin and **David Karp**, assistant professor of sociology, are co-authors of an article titled "Debating Death: Critical Issues in Capital Punishment," included in *Critical Issues in Crime and Justice*, second edition, published this year by Sage.

Dennis Conway, director of Campus Safety, is the author of "Skidmore Campus Safety Saddles Up," an article published in *The Clipboard*, Vol. 21, No. 4, Winter 2003, the journal of the Northeast Colleges and Universities Security Association.

Catherine Golden, professor of English, is the author of "Teaching 'The Yellow Wall-Paper' Through the Lens of Language" published in *Approaches to Teaching Gilman's 'The Yellow Wall-Paper' and Herland*, edited by Denise D. Knight and Cynthia J. Davis and published this year by the Modern Language Association.

Penny Howell Jolly, Kenan Professor of Liberal Arts and professor of art history, is the author of "Marked Difference: Earrings and 'The Other' in Fifteenth-Century Flemish Art" published in *Encountering Medieval Dress and Textiles: Object, Text, and Image*, edited by D. Koslin and J. Snyder and published by Palgrave, 2002.

Juan Carlos Lértora, professor of Spanish, published a review of *Marginalities: Diamela Eltit and the Subversion of Mainstream Literature in Chile* by Gisela Norat in *Letras Femeninas*, Vol. 28, 2002.

W. Michael Mudrovic, associate professor of Spanish, is the author of an article titled "A Single Thread of Meaning: Esperanza Ortega's Hilo solo," published in *Romance Quarterly*, Vol. 49, 2002.

Virginia Murphy-Berman, visiting professor of psychology, is the author of a chapter titled "Globalization in Cross-Cultural Perspective," included in the book, *Globalization and Children*, edited by Natalie Kaufman and Irene Rizzini and published by Plenum.

Viviana Rangil, associate professor of Spanish, has published two articles: "Stereotypes But...: Gender Roles in Contemporary Latin Cinema," in *Afterimage: The Journal of Media Arts and Cultural Criticism*, Vol. 30, Winter 2002; and "Selena: Two Complementary Cinematographic Interpretations," in *Music, Popular Culture, Identities*, a collection of essays edited by Richard Young and published by Rodopi (Amsterdam-New York, 2002).

Linda Simon, professor of English, had an essay titled "The Naked Source" recently included in two college readers: *The New Millennium Reader*, third edition, edited by Stuart and Terry Hirschberg and published by Prentice-Hall; and *The Arlington Reader*, edited by Lynn Z. Bloom, Louise Smith, and Ning Yu and published by Bedford/St. Martin's. The essay, which originally appeared in *The Michigan Quarterly Review* in 1988, has been anthologized many times since then.

Skidmore Intercom

Skidmore College
815 North Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518.580.5000
intercom@skidmore.edu